

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: Embedding IPE Competencies into a Nurse Practitioner Program for Underserved Communities In Pennsylvania
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This proposal requests financial support to embed interprofessional competencies into the Nurse Practitioner (NP) Program through the provision of shared learning experiences between NP and medical students that will be utilized to improve the safety and quality of care for individuals/families with multiple chronic conditions (MCC) who reside in rural and medically underserved communities in Pennsylvania. The goals are: 1) Develop interprofessional collaborative practice competencies for NP students specific to individuals/families with MCC. 2) Prepare faculty to teach within an interdisciplinary learning environment using technology.

Shared learning experiences specific to individuals/families with MCC, will be developed, implemented, and evaluated for all NP Program didactic and clinical courses over 6 semesters by a faculty team from the School of Nursing, College of Medicine (COM), and expert faculty collaborators. The NP Program includes Master's and Post-Master's NP Options for Family, Adult Gerontology Primary Care and Adult Gerontology Acute Care NPs currently offered at six campus sites, connected by distance technology, that are located in/or serve rural and/or underserved populations. NP students from all sites will work in pairs or small groups with medical students at the University Park or Hershey Medical Center Campus to complete shared learning through distance technology.

The proposed services include supporting the extension of technology and the development of interprofessional learning activities through technology for NP students at the following Penn State campuses: University Park, PA, Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA, Fayette, Uniontown, PA, Altoona, Altoona, Mont Alto, Mont Alto, PA, Worthington Scranton, Dunmore, PA, and the Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA. Courses in these programs are delivered via interactive television or online by graduate faculty located at UP, Hershey, or Fayette. All students have clinical experiences with underserved populations in rural and urban settings.

The School recently received two HRSA grants, to expand the NP program to the Mont Alto and Worthington Scranton campuses and the second to fully fund full-time NP students (30 students over 5 years). The purpose of these grants is to educate NPs in rural medically underserved areas of PA, with the goal of having these students remain in their home communities upon graduation. ANE monies will help us support the extension of current technology, along with faculty who will develop the interprofessional activities and integrate them into NP courses.

A **funding preference** is requested for substantially benefit rural and underserved populations in Pennsylvania.